

## **Kentucky Policy Academy on Homeless Families**

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on Homeless Families)

SUBJECT: Policy Academy Report and Future Plans

DATE: January 16, 2002

We are pleased to provide you with the following information outlining the goals and action steps that we have finalized as a result of our work at the policy academy for state and local policymakers in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In December 2001, our group met to finalize our goals and action steps. We have drafted a follow-up letter to the governor describing our efforts and commitment to the work we have begun. Our first meeting in the new year is scheduled for January 25. We have invited approximately six additional stakeholders to join us for this meeting. We will provide an overview of the policy academy and our work to date. We will develop a timeline, assign tasks and set our meeting schedule for the coming year. We have also begun working on a public relations campaign seeking to preserve the funding allocated to Kentucky's Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

### **KENTUCKY'S VISION**

We want all Kentucky families to have access to safe, decent, affordable housing and the tools and services they need to be self-sufficient. To accomplish this, we envision statewide systems and policies that forge partnerships among state agencies that allow communities to achieve local solutions.

## **GOALS AND ACTION STEPS**

In the forefront of all of our planning efforts is the fact that we need a limited number of achievable goals from which we can build. An example would be the development of protocol questions for homeless and mainstream case managers to ensure consistency in services and referrals.

### **Goal 1**

Formalize the Kentucky Policy Academy Team to coordinate all state agency programs that can affect homeless families and children.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Prepare and disseminate a policy academy report and request formalization of the Kentucky Homeless Policy Academy by the governor.
2. Invite additional stakeholders to the first meeting of 2002.
3. Develop work plan, make assignments and schedule future meetings.

### **Goal 2**

Enhance the efficiency and coordination of services for homeless families and children throughout the state.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Standardize case management services.

#### **Action Steps**

- A. Inventory case management services statewide.
  - B. Establish case management training protocols.
  - C. Develop uniform intake and assessment tools across agency and department lines.
2. Establish a comprehensive, statewide data collection system of shelter and services utilized by homeless families and children.

#### **Action Steps**

- A. Create and maintain more private partnerships to insure coordinated products and services.
- B. Establish authority and oversight responsibilities for the statewide tracking system.

### **Goal 3**

Develop and implement a comprehensive homelessness prevention program.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Develop a statewide prevention policy, incorporating urban and rural elements.

#### **Action Steps**

- A. Research and compile an inventory of Best Practices in homeless prevention.
  - B. Develop a regional menu of services through the regional COC Homeless Planning Boards, including a list of prevention resources.
2. Engage all mainstream programs under the policy academy umbrella.
  3. Formalize an initiative to end homelessness for families and children.

**Goal 4**

Increase access to affordable permanent housing for homeless families throughout the state of Kentucky.

**Strategies:**

1. Explore creative financing options.

**Action Step**

Research the Maryland model-pooling capital funds for bond issues to finance the rehabilitation of public housing units.

2. Increase the use of Section 8 vouchers by improving access.
3. Enforce local building codes and Housing Quality Standards.
4. Optimize the use of existing rental assistance funds.
5. Preserve the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) source.

Please contact any member of the Kentucky Policy Academy on Homeless Families if you have questions or need additional information. I can be reached at Kentucky Housing Corporation's Specialized Housing Resources Department, (502) 564-7630, extension 414.

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